

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-30 and add claims 31-50 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claims 1-30. (canceled).

31. (Newly Added) A metallic cover plate for an electrical switch or outlet, the metallic cover plate comprising:

a base having a substantially planar member formed primarily of metal;

wherein the metallic planar member comprises at least one removable tab defined by at least one groove in at least one of a front and a rear side of the metallic planar member;

wherein the at least one groove extends only partially through the metallic planar member for a majority of its length; and

wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive an electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a switch, a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

32. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein the metallic cover plate and at least one groove are formed by die casting.

33. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a switch.

34. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a duplex outlet.

35. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket.

36. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a single round electrical socket.

37. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein the at least one removable tab defined by at least one groove comprises a set of removable tabs, each tab being defined by at least one groove in at least one of a front and a rear side of the metallic planar member.

38. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein the at least one removable tab forms a first tab set, the metallic planar member further comprising at least one removable tab forming a second tab set, wherein removal of the at least one tab forming the second tab set forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a different electrical hardware device than the electrical hardware device for the first tab set, the electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a switch, a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

39. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 31, wherein the planar member is formed of at least one of zinc, magnesium and aluminum.

40. (Newly Added) A metallic cover plate for an electrical switch or outlet, the metallic cover plate comprising:

a base having a substantially planar member formed primarily of die cast metal; wherein the metallic planar member comprises at least one removable tab defined by at least one groove in at least one of a front and a rear side of the metallic planar member; and wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive an electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a switch, a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

41. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein the at least one groove extends only partially through the metallic planar member for a majority of its length.

42. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein the at least one groove forms a periphery line around the at least one removable tab.

43. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein the at least one removable tab is a first set of removable tabs, and wherein the metallic planar member further comprising a second set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the second set of removable tabs, when removed, forming an aperture sized and shaped to receive a different electrical hardware device than the electrical hardware device for the first tab set, the electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a switch, a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

44. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a duplex outlet.

45. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein removal of the at least one tab forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket.

46. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein the at least one removable tab having a thickness and the at least one groove having a depth equal to between 40% and 50% of the thickness of the removable tabs.

47. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 40, wherein the at least one removable tab having a thickness, the planar member having at least one groove on the front side having a depth equal to between 40% and 50% of the thickness, the planar member further having at least one groove back side having a depth equal to between 20% and 40% of the thickness.

48. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 47, wherein the at least one removable tab having a thickness, the planar member having at least one groove on the front side having a depth equal to between 20% and 50% of the thickness.

49. (Newly Added) A die cast metallic cover plate for an electrical switch or outlet, the metallic cover plate comprising:

a base having a planar member formed of die cast metal;

wherein the metallic planar member comprises at least a first tab set comprising at least one removable tab defined by at least one groove in at least one of a front and a rear side of the metallic planar member; and

wherein removal of the first tab set forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive an electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a switch, a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

50. (Newly Added) The metallic cover plate of claim 49, wherein the metallic planar member further comprises a second tab set comprising at least one removable tab, and wherein the second set of removable tabs, when removed, forms an aperture sized and shaped to receive a different electrical hardware device than the electrical hardware device for the first tab set, the electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a switch, a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.